






## ▼ Clear your name of criminal charges.

- ☐ If someone is arrested and uses your name or personal information, contact the law enforcement agency that arrested the thief. You may need to check court records to find out where the thief was arrested.
  - File a report about the impersonation.
  - Give copies of your fingerprints, photograph, and identifying documents.
  - Ask the law enforcement agency to:
    - compare your information to the imposter's
    - change all records from your name to the imposter's name (if you know it)
    - give you a "clearance letter" or "certificate of release" to declare your innocence
  - Keep the clearance letter or "certificate of release" with you at all times.
  - Write down who you contacted and when.
- ☐ If a court prosecutes an identity thief using your name, contact the court where the arrest or conviction happened.
  - Ask the district attorney for records to help you clear your name in court records.
  - Provide proof of your identity.
  - Ask the court for a "certificate of clearance" that declares you are innocent.
  - Keep the "certificate of clearance" with you at all times.
- ☐ Contact your [state Attorney General](#) .
- ☐ Ask if your state has an "identity theft passport" (a tool you can use to resolve financial issues related to the identity theft) or some other special help for identity theft victims.
- ☐ If you get an identity theft passport, keep it with you at all times.
- ☐ Consider hiring a criminal defense lawyer. The [American Bar Association](#)  or a local [legal services provider](#)  can help you find a lawyer.
- ☐ Ask the law enforcement agency that arrested the thief which information brokers buy their records.
  - Write to the brokers. Ask them to remove errors from your file.

Information brokers buy criminal records and sell information to employers and debt collectors.
- ☐ Write down who you contacted and when. Keep copies of any letters you send.